



SR0860

LRB099 13577 MST 37522 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Richard Allen "Dick" Welton, former Mayor of Gurnee, who passed away on July 31, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Welton was born on September 6, 1942 to Arthur and Mary Welton; he graduated from Warren Township High School in 1961 and from Carthage College in 1965, later serving on its board; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Welton took over management responsibilities of the Welton's Food Mart and helped it grow into a 5 store chain, employing over 1000 dedicated team members; and

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WHEREAS, Mayor Welton was appointed as a Village of Gurnee Trustee in 1971; 2 years later, he was elected Mayor of Gurnee at the age of 30, the youngest Mayor in Illinois at the time; he retained this position for the next 28 years and led the expansion of Gurnee from a small village to a thriving community bringing in Great America, Gurnee Mills, and virtually every major residential and commercial development; he was the first Lake County Mayor to serve as President of the Illinois Municipal League; he took great pride in his work with the Lake County Joint Action Water Agency and served as its

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1 first President; he was responsible for the formation of the  
2 Lake County Storm Water Management Commission following the  
3 1986 record flood in Gurnee; he was a member of the PACE board  
4 for past 20 years and was on the Gurnee Economic Development  
5 Committee; and

6 WHEREAS, Mayor Welton was an active member of the Gurnee  
7 Exchange club for over 35 years, being honored with the "Book  
8 of Golden Deeds" award; he was instrumental in the development  
9 of the Gurnee Days Corporation, the Gurnee Park District, and  
10 the Warren Newport Library; he worked on the "Save Great Lakes  
11 Naval Station" campaign; and

12 WHEREAS, Mayor Welton was a lifelong member of the Gurnee  
13 Community Church; he was elected to the Warren Township High  
14 School Hall of Fame in the early 1990s; and

15 WHEREAS, Mayor Welton was preceded in death by his parents;  
16 his father-in-law, Don Shannon; his brother and sister-in-law,  
17 Art and Lynn Welton; and his nephew, A.G. Hancock; and

18 WHEREAS, Mayor Welton is survived by his beloved wife,  
19 Debby (Shannon); his children, Natalie (Ross) Ellis, Dick  
20 (Maria) Welton, Jr., Stacy (Owen) Evans, Brett (Amy) Schmidt,  
21 and Kristan (Mike) Kolar; his grandchildren, Erika, Liam,  
22 Kaitlyn, Angelina, Jake, Jackson, and John; his mother-in-law,

1 Marilyn Fredrickson; his in-laws, Donna (Guy) Flaschner, Don  
2 (Lisa) Shannon, and Richard (Mario) Shannon; and his siblings,  
3 Maryann (Dr. Manooch) Sharifi, Harry (Gail) Welton, Martha  
4 (Marvin) Schmidt, Bill (Annette) Welton, Sara (Al) Hancock, and  
5 Nancy (Jim) Hayner; therefore, be it

6       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn the passing of  
8 Richard Allen "Dick" Welton, and extend our sincere condolences  
9 to his family, friends, and all who knew and loved him; and be  
10 it further

11       RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
12 presented to the family of Mayor Welton as an expression of our  
13 deepest sympathy.